



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Celebrate the Wonder of Trees by Vine & Branch!**

Take the Family out for a Fun Afternoon and Learn a Bit of History

Here is a way to take advantage of the cooler weather, discover a part of Indiana's history in the center of Morgantown. Sitting in front of the Victorian Rose Inn on the North East corner of Washington and Cross Street is a tree with a story to tell.



### **About the Tree**

Ruben C. Griffith was born in a log cabin on this lot in 1845. At the age of 17 he enlisted with the Union Army only to be captured one year later and incarcerated in the legendary Andersonville Prison in Georgia. From his small prison window he watched a tiny tree grow out of a dry crack in the earth. It gave him hope that he too might survive.

Having seen the dire need for physicians during the war, upon his release he returned home and became a prominent Morgantown physician. In 1894 he tore down the family cabin and built this house to use as his residence and office. In 1908, the governor of Indiana commissioned him to return to Andersonville to erect a memorial for the 630 soldiers who died there. Upon his return he carried with him a Ginkgo sapling which he planted in his yard. This small sapling is now 100 years old and 44 inches in diameter with a crown that extends across much of the property. It is, in itself, a memorial to those soldiers that died at Andersonville.

Unfortunately in 1910 while observing fireworks from an upstairs window Dr. Griffith fell to his death. This house and tree was added to the National Registry in 2006.

Make time this fall season to drive the family down to Morgantown. Have lunch and spend the afternoon enjoying the tree and the story it has to tell, it's an interesting part of our history.

### **About Vine & Branch, Inc.**

Vine & Branch is an expert and accomplished Arboricultural and Horticultural Consulting and Contracting firm specializing in Sustainable Urban Arboriculture in the greater Indianapolis Metro area. They have been successfully providing these services for over 30 years to a diverse clientele, including commercial and industrial facilities, property developers, architectural and engineering firms, government agencies, universities, golf courses and high-end residential clients.

Judson R. Scott, President of Vine & Branch, has achieved the status of Registered Consulting Arborist (RCA). As an RCA, he advises Attorneys, Developers, Architects, Engineers, Builders, Insurance Companies, as well as homeowners concerning their trees and landscapes. He was also the President of the American Society of Consulting Arborists in 2007.

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